

broadcaster, and we must deliver accurate information about events occurring in the region. We must be an accessible voice in the region with a program and format that will attract a broader audience. This expanded service will also provide the region with increased exposure to news and information and Western journalistic standards of a free press. This provision of information will help counter the existing regional broadcasts which are often censored or under state control.

I am confident this increased information will help us further our policy goals of establishing peace and stability in the region. In light of the terrible events of this week, I appreciate the opportunity to register my support for this program and our international broadcasting efforts. I would also add that I concur with the comments of my colleagues.

Mrs. BOXER. I also concur with the remarks of my colleagues.

Mr. HAGEL. I also concur with my colleagues and would like to ask Senator INOUE to provide his final comments.

Mr. INOUE. I concur in the comments of my colleagues about the importance of the enhanced programming in the Middle East proposed by the Broadcasting Board of Governors. It is my hope that the proposed service will help disseminate news and information throughout the region. I am pleased that the Broadcasting Board of Governors has committed to providing this much-needed service and look forward to working with my colleagues to support the Middle East Radio Network.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

STEPFAMILY DAY

• Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize National Stepfamily Day, a day that reminds us that families don't need to be bound by biology to be grounded in love and respect.

The Stepfamily Association of America and 38 States recognize September 16 as National Stepfamily Day. On this day, stepfamilies nationwide are encouraged to hold picnics and other activities to bring our stepfamilies together so they can share their experiences.

Stepfamily Day came about through the efforts of Michigan's Christy Borgeld, a board member of the Stepfamily Association of America. I applaud her efforts and those of the membership of the Stepfamily Association of America.

When we celebrate Stepfamily Day, we really celebrate the ties that make all our families one of our most precious national treasures, dedicated parents working to ensure their children grow up in safe and loving homes.

It is my pleasure to pay tribute to the Stepfamily Association of America for its commitment and hard work on

behalf of American families, and to wish families in Michigan and nationwide a happy and successful Stepfamily Day.●

TRIBUTE TO PETE SUAZO

• Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Eluid Pete Suazo, a distinguished Utah State Senator whose untimely death in August has had a tremendous impact—not only on his family and close friends, but also on the entire state of Utah.

At the time of his death, Senator Suazo represented Salt Lake City's multi-cultural west side, and he also served as the Assistant minority whip. Pete was heralded for his unfailing determination and advocacy for his constituents. Indeed, his integrity and absolute dedication won Senator Suazo respect from his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

As the only Hispanic member of the Utah Legislature, Pete felt a strong sense of responsibility to honor and help Utah's growing Hispanic and minority populations. He was a top leader of the Hispanic community, who was also able to cross Utah's ethnic and political lines to effect policies benefiting the entire community. I remember how Pete's wife, Alicia, fondly recalled the day her husband decided to run for office. He passionately stated, "The Chicano boy is going to be a senator, not in New Mexico, but in Utah where the work is going to be doubly hard and the victory glorious." This optimism showed in Pete's face, for he was always smiling.

Pete fought for the underdog and the less privileged. For those who sought his advice and assistance, he always had a helping hand and a listening ear. He worked tirelessly to improve the lives of the youth in his neighborhood. He organized graffiti removal teams, baseball and soccer leagues, summer work programs, and provided so many other opportunities to strengthen the characters of countless young men and women.

Over the past few years, Pete helped reinvigorate amateur boxing in Utah and participated as a referee to ensure safety in the sport. The Senator undertook these and many other volunteer efforts to help the less fortunate, always giving hope to those who needed it so much.

Senator Suazo's work ethic was extraordinary and was developed at a very young age. He took great pride in whatever he was doing—from selling popcorn at a charity carnival in his youth to serving as a leading state senator. Throughout his life, he used his tremendous energy and his capacity for hard work to champion the causes in which he so fervently believed.

While serving in the Utah legislature, Senator Suazo was not afraid of the tough battles. In recent years, his work to adopt a more pro-active and stronger hate crimes law defined Pete Suazo's leadership and determination. He never

gave up, and through his efforts this issue rose to the forefront of the legislature's attention.

Mr. President, Utah has lost a true hero. Senator Pete Suazo was a man with great integrity, strong personal conviction, and a humble heart. His life was an example of dedicated public service and utmost love for his community and fellow man. I hope my colleagues will join me in sending our heartfelt thoughts and prayers to the Suazo family—his wife, Alicia, and their children Travis, Abel, Emilio and Julio, his parents Pat and Lily, his siblings Kathy, Becky, Georgia, Anna, Ellie and Andy—and also to the many, many friends and neighbors of Pete who will deeply miss him. My hope is that future generations of Utahns will have the desire to follow in this good man's footsteps, and continue his legacy of work for the people of Utah. In so many instances Pete did not only dream the impossible dream, he strove for and attained it.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE DECLARATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY BY REASON OF CERTAIN TERRORIST ATTACKS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 40

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 201 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1621), I hereby report that I have exercised my authority to declare a national emergency by reason of the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center, New York, New York, and the Pentagon, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on the United States. A copy of my proclamation is attached.

Further, I have authorized, pursuant to section 12302 of title 10, United States Code, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Transportation with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service within